

Boston, February 17, 1863.

Dear Mr. Webb,

I will not let tomorrow's mail leave our shores without a word to tell you how much we feel cheered and strengthened, in our labour to save this fair Country from the jaws of Slavery and destruction, by the tidings which come thickly to us, the last two days, of the splendid great meeting in London on the 29th of January; it cannot be said to have been in Exeter Hall, so much as in all that neighbourhood; so that even our steadfast friends amongst you confess that its multitudes, ^{its} enthusiasm, ^{its} unanimity, took them fairly by surprise. To us it seems like a resurrection to new life. The sleeping & smothered fires of British Anti-slavery feeling and purpose have at length burst out into a glorious flame, lighting up the horizon, re-appearing us in our difficult and dangerous path, and promising to shrivel up, ~~by~~ in its devouring way, the dastardly, cowardly, ~~blackened~~ disgraceful cords with which Slavery and the tools of Slavery have so long been seeking to bind & hold fast the conscience and principles of England. Oh! that base Tories! how long, in the spirit & with the cunning of Lucifer, has it been distilling its poison into the ears of your people, until we despairingly had begun to believe it had reached both brain and heart. Thank God! not so. When left, as the servants of Satan always are left, in a moment of weakness, to exhibit its cloven foot - its one-ness with Slavery -

by endeavouring to make the Bible itself
responsible for American Slavery, and thus
"in oppression's hateful service, like both
man and God", - it wrote its own
doom, and hastened its own condemnation.
None but slaveholders, in fact or spirit,
will give ear to its words about America
longer. Its treachery, its hypocrisy, its
shameless lies, all ventured upon in the
vilest of causes, stand now unmasked,

And England, like a strong man,
is roused again, awakes, and lives.
So it appears to us, and so we would
fain believe. So we will believe, as
we have from the first striven to do,
unless this faith is by some irresistible
force crushed out of us; - but that
cannot be. Lancashire, Manchester,
and now London are pledged and affirmed,
that cannot be gainsaid or overcome,
that this cannot be. God bless your
Bright, your Newman, your Stuart
Mill, your Cairnes, your Baptist Noel,
your Newman Hall, your Hughes, your
Perronet Thompson, your Forster, your Spurgeon, every
true manly soul among you, who has
sympathized with everything that is good
in America, in our terrible struggle, in
our sorrow even unto death, while we

struggle~~ed~~, body and soul, with the maniac
power of Slavery. And you Martineaus,
your George Thompsons, - never can we thank and
honour them enough for the brave fight they have fought,
for God, Man, & Freedom. No earthly blessing or reward is
equal to their deserts. Oh! yes, one there is, - the full,
unfettered freedom of the long-abused and cruelly-wronged
Slave; - that shall be enough for them. Shall they not live
to witness it? We pray they may, - that they may see
of the travail of their souls, & be satisfied. We are hopeful.
Our good President - for a good man he is, and a friend
to his Country's highest good and honour, though too slow
(as we think) to seize the great opportunities as they
arise - means to save this land from Slavery, and its
accursed influence. The mighty cheers which arose in
London at the mention of his name, were not ill-bestowed;
and those who gave them ^{have} gloriously entitled themselves
to the high honour of being ^{known as} lovers of humanity, friends of
the oppressed every where, disinterested well-wishers to
every struggle, the world over, for mankind.

- And now one word on another subject - a sore
one to us, not so much so for the material damage ~~it~~
inflicted, as for the evidence ^{it afforded} of unfriendliness to us, nay of
~~an~~ ^{marked} hostility on the part of your Government
towards ours, & towards us as a people; - I speak of the
private Alabama, fitted out in your principal Shipping
port, & sailing thence to devastate & prey upon our
Commerce and the lives of our people. I will not touch
^{upon} these points; ~~but~~ as clear as we deem the proof against your
Government, ~~of~~

of a most inexcusable delay. ^{I only now} ~~but~~ ^{truly} allude to the fact
that that pirate-ship is allowed to enter your Colonial ports
discharge her prisoners & obtain supplies of coal and other
necessaries, - that her pirate-chief is received by Jamaica
merchants with honor & congratulations, - and that no orders
from the British Government have forbidden ^{any of} these deeds! Surely
when the career of the Alabama on the ocean became known
in your country, the least your government could have done in
the premises was to have said to ~~every~~ all her colonial officers,
Give no aid ^{or} comfort to this vessel. But, while our men
of war have no such privilege, it seems to be freely & gladly
extended to Semmes and his pirate crew! Let the spirit
which showed itself at London on the 29th of January, and which
is being evoked in every part of Great Britain, as we trust
& believe, call upon your Government to act in this matter
or else that Government will grossly belie the spirit of
your people, & show itself false to all its ~~past~~ declarations
of neutrality.

I am, ever sincerely, Yours
Saml. May Jr

P.S. I have only time to acknowledge receipt (yesterday)
of the Draft for £22. odd - and to thank Alfred for his
great pains & service in behalf of Standard, &c. I will
write again soon.